

Media Release

Wednesday 19 June 2019



Council adopts 2019/20 Budget with record infrastructure investment

The City of Casey has adopted its *2019/20 Budget* which funds Council's largest ever Capital Works Program (CWP) and supports the delivery of 66 important services to the community.

Following a four-week community consultation period where residents were invited to view and have their say on the draft budget, Council adopted the final budget at a Council meeting on Tuesday 18 June 2019, along with the revised *Council Plan 2017-21* and *Annual Action Plan 2019/20*.

Through financially responsible budgeting, Council has been able to continue its strong investment in the necessary projects and services for Casey's large and rapidly growing community. This year's budget includes:

- A \$151.5 million CWP to deliver more than 330 infrastructure projects across Casey, in both our new and growing communities as well as our established suburbs.
- A \$344.8 million operating budget that provides funding to deliver 66 core services to the community
- A rates increase of 2.5% in line with the State Government rate cap.

City of Casey Mayor Cr Amanda Stapledon thanked all those who took the time to view *the 2019/20 Draft Budget* and provide their feedback during the consultation period.

"Community feedback is essential to the development of Council's budget. We undertook extensive community engagement earlier this year to find out more about our residents' priorities and needs to help inform the development of our budget and annual action plan. We also heard from many people in our community during the draft budget consultation phase," she said.

"This is a budget our community can be proud of with a record infrastructure investment to fund much-needed projects across Casey, from new family and community centres and sports grounds and facilities to improvements across Casey's expansive road and path network.

"The Council budget also supports the delivery of 66 important services to our community including waste management and family, children, aged and disability services."

Cr Stapledon added that the budget supports Council's strategic objectives of being people driven, a place to prosper and operating a high performing organisation.

"We're already such a large and growing city, with our population tipped to reach more than 514,000 residents by 2041," she said.

"This budget continues to demonstrate our commitment to invest in the future so we can keep up with the growing demand for infrastructure and services as we work towards delivering on our vision of creating Australia's most liveable city for our residents."

To find out more and view the *2019/20 Budget* visit www.casey.vic.gov.au/councilbudget

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The 2019/20 Budget snapshot:

- \$496.3 million total budget to deliver for a community of more than 350,000 people
 - \$344.8 million operating budget to support Council to provide 66 important services to the Casey community
 - \$151.5 million CWP which funds much-needed community infrastructure from roads to sports fields
- 2.5 per cent average general rate increase in line with the State Government rate cap and \$21 increase in the standard waste charge. Based on the preliminary property valuations, which are waiting certification by the Victorian Valuer General, the rates will increase by an average of \$21.34.

Budget highlights:

- **\$50.1 million to renew, upgrade and construct new sport and recreational facilities**
 - Continued construction of Regional Community Soccer Precinct at Casey Fields, Cranbourne East (\$10m)
 - Commence design and construction of new tennis courts (6-8) and a pavilion at Cairns Road Reserve, Hampton Park (\$1m)
- **\$43 million towards child, youth and family services**
 - Includes additional funding to keep up with growing demand for kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health consultations, with more than 5,000 babies born in Casey each year
- **\$38 million to improve Casey's expansive road and path network**
 - Commence stage 1 of Hardys Road construction, from Clyde Road to Tuckers Road, and stage 1 Clyde Road/Hardys Road intersection, Clyde North (\$9m)
 - Commence intersection upgrade works between Grices Road, Glasscocks Road, Clyde Road and Berwick-Cranbourne Road and road duplication works between Berwick-Cranbourne Road and Viewgrand Drive, Cranbourne North (\$2m)
- **\$19 million towards aged care and disability support services including Meals on Wheels, volunteer transport and respite care**
 - Includes support for the establishment of an additional carer's hub within the City of Casey and further promotion of support available to carers
- **\$20.9 million to renew and build new family and community facilities**
 - Commence construction of new integrated community hub, Cranbourne West (\$5.7m)
 - Commence development of a new family and community centre integrated with the local primary school, Botanic Ridge (\$3.5m)
- **\$23 million towards community facilities and participation**
 - A five per cent increase in grants to the Casey Cardinia Library Corporation to \$6.2 million to support business improvement and meet growing demand.
 - An increase in Council grants including an additional \$200,000 for the annual Community Grants Program, increase in Large Events Funding of \$30,000 and an additional \$10,000 towards fundraising events.

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- **\$7.4 million to build and improve our playgrounds and open spaces**
 - Complete the construction of new regional, outdoor skate park, along with playground, terraced landscaping and lawn area, Endeavour Hills (\$2.1m)
 - Upgrades, improvements and developments to playgrounds across Casey (\$1.4m)
- **\$9.4 million to implement innovative technology to improve business performance and customer experience and undertake renewable energy projects**
 - Investment into our business transformation program and Smart Cities initiatives to deliver smarter, simplified and streamlined business processes and technology to ensure we can meet the demands of our future city tipped to be home to half a million people by 2041.

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